

A
DECLARATION
OF THE DVKE OF
ROHAN Peere of *France*, &c.

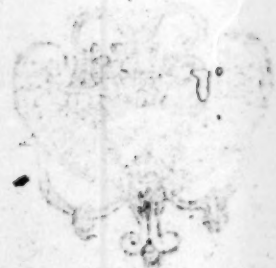
CONTAINING THE
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of the *King of Great Britaine*, and to take
armes for the defence of the Reformed
Churches.

Translated according to the French Copie.



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formed Churches.



Might content my selfe
to oppose the sinceritie
of all mine actions against
the blame which igno-
rant or malicious persons
will undertake to poure
vpon mine innocencie,
and vpon the necessitie
of my resolution: It might
satisfie

satisfie me if I had no regard, but to my selfe to endeavour to doe better, and to leaue enuy, and slander for a chastisement to the calumniators, the equitable iudgement of good people, is to me in stead of an honourable recompence, and will alwayes giue mee more satisfaction then the blame of wicked people is able to doe me displeasure.

But for as much as at the ouerture of so great and extraordinarie things which happen among men, every one discourieth according to his fantasie, and oft-times euill interpretations doe surmount aboue the most sound opinions, and that aboue all silence is taken for a confession of the fact, and that Spirits which are facile, and easie to be perswaded, if they bee not instructed in the truth, doe readily suffer themselues to bee surprized, and drawne to error; from whence commeth such diuersitie of speech among vs, and the deuision of hearts torne by contrarie apprehensions, alwayes accompanied with weaknesse, and followed with ruine; and that the comming of strangers into the Kingdome, which men beleue (and I doe not deny it to haue beene procured by the care of my brother, and my selfe,) shall bee for a long time the subiect of all the good, or of all the euill which shall be discoursed of either within or without this Kingdome: I haue thought it my duty to put to light this small Discourse to iustifie this action to all the world, to make it appeare euen vnto our enemies, that it is grounded vpon an euident right, and to our friends that wee haue beene thereunto constrained by the most powerfull lawes of necessity.

(3)

It is well knowne to all men by what reasons I was bound to conclude the peace in the treatie before Montpellier, wherein I had thought all at once to procure deliuerance, and respiration to the Church of God, to my King the honour and glorie which hee could desire, and peace, and repose to the whole State, which was thereunto so absolutely necessarie: to arrest the progresse of the King of Spaine, who outrageously spurned with his feete the best, and most faithfull Allies of this Crowne, that hee might the better come with greater facility to the end of this Monarchie, after the which hee hath long gaped: and the more easily to attaine this peace, wee haue yeelded our selues with a full confidence into his Maiesties hands, that we might be indebted for our deliuerance, next after God, to his onely goodnesse, hauing for a precious gage of our reestablishment, and preservation, his sacred word, I was perswaded thereunto (besides the reasons aboue mentioned) by the Letters of the King of Great Brittain, and of eminent men amongst vs, which did giue testimonie to haue yet much zeale for the Church.

But I know not through what Councell the word which his Maiestie confirmed vnto me all the time till hee came to Lyons, and afterwards by many letters, was found so suddenly altered, the publike faith violated, and all our deere, and most necessary liberties oppressed.

For in stead of re-establishing according to the Acts and Conditions of the Peace of *Montpellier*, in its first estate, the Magistracy is changed and parted in two by violence: a Citadell built, as a publike monument, erected to condemne or
to

to kill our Conscience: and a Garrison of foure thousand men maintained within the Towne, to the insupportible vexation of all the Inhabitantes. In stead of demolishing the Fort of *Rebelle* according to the same promises specified in his Maiesties acts, they haue augmented and fortified it with all things necessary for a long and perpetuall establishment, and from the same doe plot many enterprises against the Towne, which being discovered, were authorised, not onely by impunitie, but euen by recompences given to the vnder-takers.

The exercise of our religion is not reestablished in the places from whence it was expelled during the warre, but euen during the peace many other Churches are intangled in the same persecution, diuers Pastors imprisoned, Edicts and Declarations made against the libertie of discipline, as it appeareth by the presence of Commissaries in the Ecclesiasticall Assemblies. And in hatred of the Religion many places are spoyled, and razed in time of peace, as Caumont, Castillon, Pont-Orson, and others: The Chamber of the Edict (a Court of Iustice for those of both Religions) within the Towne of Castres is not reestablished as it was promised, but is transferred to Beziers a seditious towne, and of a contrary religion. They torture, torment and send to the Gallies men that are innocent and of reputation, vpon vngrounded suspicions, and inuented accusations: They diuide our Magistrates by a decree as at Pannies: they confiscate the greatest part of our goods vnder title of reprisals. To conclude, they doe all things otherwise then was promised by the treatie, I made vnto the King most humble, and re-
iterate

iterate remonstrances by letters and deputation, but in the end they were offended with my complaints, and imputed them as a crime; the King by an expresse letter imposed Silence vpon mee, and prohibited mee any more to releue the interest of our Churches, and proceeded so faire as to offer commissions to certaine neighbour Gentlemen of that place of my retreat, with great promises, to seize vpon my person, either alive or dead: and for prooues of that, they haue lately sent one to murder me, which narrowly missing of his purpose, shooting of a Pistoll at me burnt my Ruffe, and kild one which stood next behind mee, hauing before divulged among those of our religion, by men waged, and payed to that end, that I had sould the libertie of our Churches, and had receiued the damnable reward of their last infalliable destruction. And to couer vnto strangers of our religion the designe which they had for our perdition, they publish in brute onely warre against the Spanyard, the league with other Princes, and States interessed, whilst that vnderhand by the intermission of a Legat, peace is treated with him; and finally was concluded, as the time did make it appeare, leauing for a prey vnto him those which they had animated, and armed out of those hopes, whilst they prepared vessels, and all equipage necessary to blocke vp *Rochell*.

The affayres we reduced to such tearmes that *Mounspelier* was captiue, *Rochell* vpon the point to bee the like, all the Churches of this Kingdome threatned with bondage, and for mine owne particular, I was cruelly vlcered to see my selfe made so blacke with Calumnies, as if I had by preuarcation consented to the ruine, and oppression of

so many poore people, the complaints whereof peirced my heart, and made mee to feele a more insupportable dolour then all the rest of my sufferings.

Being pressed with such displeasures, when all hopes of bettering our condition were taken away, and that by expresse letters they gaue vs to vnderstand, that the desire of changing our condition, or to require it, should bee for the time to come the greatest, and the most vnardonable of all our crimes, and that if it wee not prevented by some bold, and prompt resolution, *Rochell* would be lost; my brother proiected the enterprise of *Blauet*, from whence ensued the precedent warre with such successe, as is knowne to all men, and which notwithstanding by the prouidence of Almighty God, finished with greater aduantage for our Churches, then wee should haue hoped for: In regard that the King finding it conuenient that the peace should be concluded through the interuention of the Ambassadors of *England*, who by vertue of their commissions bound their Master to the inuiolable obseruation of the treatie, and that by writings, and an authentickall act, by them signed, and sealed with their seales of Armes, which were in their behalfe sent vnto vs by *Monsieur de Montmartin*, (at the time, when I had conuocated the Assembly at *Nismes*, for the acceptance of the peace,) in two Originals, whereof the one is at *Rochell*, and the other with me, which containe in expresse tearmes as followeth: *That they giue vs such assurance, that the King of great Britaine will labour by his intercessions ioyned to our most humble supplications to abridge the time for the demolishing of the Fort Lewis, for the which they as Ambassadors gaue vs all*
such

such Royall words and promises as we could desire. And the said Monsieur de Montmartin did assure mee from him in that behalfe, that they being returned into England would cause to bee deliuered vnto my brother another Act signed with the Kings owne hand, which should containe in expresse termes, viz. That if the King should refuse, or too long deferre the razing of the said Fort, and the intire obseruation of the treaty of the peace, the said King of Great Britaine would employ all the forces which God hath giuen him to maintaine his word, and so make vs fully to enjoy those things which haue beene promised by the answers and declarations of his Maieslie, and by the act of the interuention of his Ambassadors. Which gaue vs hope, that either the conditions of this peace should be more exactly obserued then those of the former, or in case of new oppressions, we should haue for our warrant to sustaine vs him who made himselfe the Mediator of the treaty, interpreter of words giuen and pledges for the inuiolable obseruation thereof.

But we haue beene so vnhappy, that although it seemed vnto vs that this peace built vpon so weake foundations should continue many ages, yet notwithstanding it was worse obserued then all those which haue beene violated with more licence, and lesse consideration: For after that the Kings Counsell had reuoked all promises which they had made to all strangers which are allied to the Crowne, to signe and conclude the league against the Spaniard, they made a shamefull peace with him, and haue equally contemned all the the Edicts which were giuen vs to moue vs to lay downe the armes wee had then taken vp for our necessary defence: For the Edict was not verified in the Parliaments,

but with modifications, which destroyed them; neither could we with all our suits ever obtaine to haue the said modification to bee read: And instead of razing the Fort of *Rochell*, and to deliuer the gouernment thereof from souldiers according to the promises; They haue on the contrary filled the Fort with new munitions, giuen the keeping of it to a favorite, and multiplied the souldiers within the Isles; They haue drawne and built mighty Forts, to hold them in a perpetuall seruitude, and to take frō *Rochell* all hope of liberty for the time to come; they haue with impunity made enterprizes vpon the towne. They would exile the Pastours which were affectionate to the conseruation thereof; they haue filled the coast with shippes of warre, and by land they haue hindered them frō gathering their fruits at Sea they haue arrested the ships which broughe corne for their prouision; They haue oppressed their merchandise with new subsidies, and by this meanes doe spoile their commerce: To conclude, they haue made them vnder the name of peace to feele the hardest conditions which they might suffer during the calamity of the warre: and for the height of all euil, they maintaine within the inclosure of the walls Commissaries being armed with eminent authority, who insolently doe labour to oppresse the rest of their liberties, and to subuert all the foundations of their subsistence.

In the meane time the generality of our Churches hath not beene more fauourably vied; for the Commissaries, who though they were alwayes promised, neuer came within the prouinces for the execution of the Edict; nor the exercise of our Religion was neuer re-established in the places where it was ordained

dained by the declaration that it should be replanted,
 by meanes whereof there are more then forty Churches
 of great importance destitute of this consolation.
 Our Temples are by the same iniustice and violence
 alwaies detained from vs as they were before.
 And euen since the peace, in diuers places they haue
 committed new barbarous insolencies vpon this sub-
 iect; among others the Cardinall of *Sourdis*, and the
 Baron of *Perant*, all which remaine without repara-
 tion, and without punishment: And by an Edict
 of fresh date the 14. of Aprill, in this yeare 1627.
 they tearme, the liberty of our Religion, a simple to-
 leration, vntill (as they say) that we be reunited vn-
 der one Pastour (that is to say the Pope) to make vs
 know that wee deceiue our selues in beleeuing that
 the most iust liberties which haue beene granted vs
 should be perpetuall and inuiolable: And in the
 same Declaration they doe intirely ouerturne all the
 discipline of our Churches, for they doe absolutely
 interdict all the Pastours to make any politicke as-
 semblies, although they bee but onely for the
 liberty of our consciences, and the assurance which
 is giuen vnto vs to maintaine them: And by a like
 draught of the pen they blast all the Pastours which
 are not borne within the Kingdome, taking away
 their liberty to come into the Ecclesiasticall assem-
 blies Prouinciall or Nationall: And they prohibit
 vs to giue or lend Pastours to strange Churches or
 Vniuersities, or to receive any from them without
 expresse permission from the King. They command
 them that are without, to returne without delay,
 and yet notwithstanding they say that they may not
 re-enter into their houses without Letters Patents
 from the King, counter signed by a Secretary of
 State, and sealed with the great Seal: To conclude
 they impose a yoke such as our fathers neuer heard
 of.

The Church of *Rouen* hauing desired the Lord of *Veilleux* his Minister to come preach to them hee was forbidden to goe, to the end to take away for the time to come, the liberty of our Churches to prouide themselves of Pastours whole doctrine and piety should be for the edification of every one, and not to haue power to call others, but onely such as shall be to the liking of the Ministers of the State, vnto whom from henceforth wee must addresse our selues for the like affaires, and so to destroy the authority of Assemblies and Synods, and the order hitherto here maintained in our Churches. The repressall of our goods are alwayes in force & vertue, and if from the Chamber of the Edict some equitable sentence be obtained, there is presently found an elusion by calling the matter into the Kings Counsell, or by some contrary iudgement of the Parliament giuen at the request of a Procurator generall which doth make the former void and of none effect: And they haue condemned diuers persons for cases aduowed by the Generall, and abolished by the Edict; and others are burthened with great fines for the like subiect, and moreouer there are more then 2000 warrants giuen in the Prouince of *Languedoc*, to take prisoners in hatred of the precedent commotions, which constrain a multitude of persons whose liues are without reproach, to banish themselves from their ordinary habitations, leauing their families desolate, to goe seeke their liberty, and the assurance of their liues. The Townes which are yet left vs in diuers places, doe serue no more for retreats for those which haue becne therein refuged in the former troubles, mine owne house filled with people which are driuen from their owne habitations, and exposed to all iniuries for the same subiect. And in diuers places they haue detained in chaines, ad-
iudged

iudged to fines, and threatned with more grieuous punishment diuers persons, for speaking or writing according to our doctrine, and against the opinion of the Church of *Rome*, as at *Lyons, Aix, Beziers* and *Montpelier*.

At *Nismes* in hatred that I had there my retreat, they haue there stirred vp all the persecutions that might be imagined: They haue sent Commissaries to appoint Magistrates contrary to the priuiledge of the place. And the Consuls created they haue interdicted them by Decrees, and giuen out warrants for the attaching of their bodies, and neuer yet in Kings Countell could they haue any iustice. and in hatred of that which Monsieur *d'Aubais* had done in accepting generously the charge of Consull, they haue lodged in those places which belong vnto him certaine Companies of horse to eate them vp. And was neuer any amongst vs who either for the generall or for the particular since the Peace, suing in any request to the Counsell grounded vpon the Edict, hath obtained ought, but great expences, vnprofitable suites, continuall mockes or brauadoes, and most bitter temptations to bind him either through feare or hope to make shipwracke of his faith.

I doe not here set downe the persecutions which I suffer in mine owne particular, as some hauing for hire sought my life, and remaine unpunished, and the Auocates which plead my cause haue beene euill intreated and suspended from their charge in the Chamber at *Agon*: and still they seeke by Diabolically practices the meanes for to take away my life, whereof I dare not com plaine, fearing thereby to procure some great aduantage and honour to those which make themselves instru-
ments.

ments of such cowardly & disloyall attempts: And that those which haue forged the deceit by whom I was accused to haue made some enterprize vpon *Somerset* in the time of peace, who being discovered haue receiued no kinde of punishment, in such sort that the principall Officers who saue in iudgement acknowledging mine innocencie, said notwithstanding that it was important for the seruice of the King not to haue it manifested: And that my Lady my mother hauing sought her refuge within *Roche* for her safety, and to giue order for her affaires there, they haue vsed all possible meanes to haue her forth, telling the Inhabitants that she was the onely obstacle to the accomplishment of the promises made vnto them for their deliuerance: And this instance was made after that her houses, and my sisters were full of garisons, who haue outragiously beate her officers, and committed all the most reproachable insolencies: Which notwithstanding are things which I would hold hidden in my bosome, if the persecutions which they haue made mee to suffer were not the reward of that w^{ch} they think they owe me, for the intire affection which I haue alwayes sincerely shewne for the good and for the preservation of all our Churches: But in this cause I doe not desire that my interests should bee had in consideration: if I were my selfe alone to suffer all these miseries, my feeling thereof should neuer goe beyond the complaint: if it might so please Almighty God only for me to be cast into the sea so the rempest might bee appeased: I should alwaies bee well content to sacrifice my goods, and my life, for the tranquillitie of the state, and for the preservation of the Church of God, more then the which I confesse that there is nothing which can be more deare and precious vnto me.

This

This is in Summe the matter of our griefe, whereof
euery piece might serue for the Subiect of a very long
and deplorable History: to those which suffer whereof
notwithstanding resulteth that they will neither admin-
ister mercy nor iustice vnto vs, nor no promises, nor
other, no Edicts, no Declarations, nor Acts can couer
vs from the persecution which vexeth vs, nor from
greater calamities which threaten vs; neither is there
any faith, how publike and eminent soeuer the break-
ing whereof, for our destruction, is not made a glory;
And it is more firmly resolved then euer, to put in
practise to our cost this sanguinarie Maxime, that there
is no faith to be kept with Heretickes, for our enemies
cannot lose the desire they haue for our perdition, ex-
pecting the opportunity and power sufficient to exe-
cute it, and in the conclusion, all the essentiall condi-
tions of peace (which was thought could not be denied
vs, without an euident iniustice, and which imploreth
vengeance to God and men) are found in all the prin-
cipall places to be infringed and violated.

And aboue all the euils so great and so sensible, wee
haue with all conuenient humilitie powred forth our
complaints and Remonstrances at the Kings seete, af-
ter that we had endured them with a patience without
example: but the practise of our enemies, and the ha-
tred which they beare vnto our Religion, haue so pre-
uailed ouer the iustnes of our Cause, that the most hum-
ble supplications of our Churches both in general and
particuler brought in the behalfe of a Nationall Synod,
and by the generall Deputies, although formed con-
trary to the Order granted by our Kings, and according
to the commandement and desire of his Maiestie, haue
beene sent away with ambiguous answeres, or with
words without effect, or with sentences contrary to the
most naturall iustice, and most solemnne Edicts, the

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power

power of our enemies being come to this point, that they haue cast far off all hope of a generall assembly to draw an orderly forme of our complaints, and then haue finally prohibited our generall Deputies to present their demands in any such forme, but to produce them a part piece by piece, that they might dissipate all coniunction of our affaires, and by that meanes make our Causes to be particular, and so to hinder vs that we shall not bee able by any authentickall Act to verifie the body of iniustices, which they doe exercise against vs.

Being taught by so many experiences that wee can no more hope for any iustice from those which are obliged to administer it, and that our ruine was irrevocably resolved in the mindes of those vnto whom the gouernment of the State was committed, and that our patience, in stead of diminishing our afflictions, did augment them, and made them irremediable, and that wee were in all places accused of too simple a credulity or of an intensible stupiditie, in the end I resolved to seeke other courses then those which hitherto had beene so vnprofitably vsed, and more solid and firme means for our re-establishment.

And forasmuch as the King of Great Brittain was the Mediatour of the peace, and by the Act of his Ambassadors it was cautioned that it should be inuio-
lably obserued, I beleued that it was not onely necessary, but also most iust to haue recourse to him, to informe him of the miserable estate of our condition, and to let him know what care they haue taken to deceiue our facility, to delude our hopes, and to destroy all the apparant grounds of our liberty, to vrge the performance of his word, and to coniure him as well in my name as in the name of all our Churches, to interuent according to his promise, and to intercede that the
peace

peace which he caused to be concluded might be faithfully executed.

This is an Action which I suppose cannot bee blamed euen by our enemies, except they be without reason, nor reprobued by those of our party, except they be without conscience: For the first doe well know that the Lawes of necessity are the strongest and most naturall, they know as well as we our selues the iniustices which they haue done vs, the desolations wherewith they haue threatned vs, the small estimation of the word which was giuen vs, whereof they haue a thousand times very audaciouly said that it was not in the Kings power to make vs to inioy it. So far forth, that the Parliaments by their vniust modifications haue cancelled and cut off the most important Articles for our subsistence; neither doe they doubt either of the resolued designe soone or late of our perdition, and to expell vs out of the Kingdome, or of the preparatiues which they haue made to come to the execution, in beginning with the subuersion of Rochell, from the which by all kind of forces and plots they would race out the rest of our Churches, so that they cannot deny but they haue reduced vs to the vttermost point of extreame necessity.

Moreouer, they that haue craued and borrowed the forces of strangers and of a contrary Religion to their owne to oppresse vs, cannot iudiciously complaine that we haue sought the succours of our Brethren to defend vs. And which is more, our liues are in question, which they plot to extinguish; our goods, whereof they haue violently bereft vs; our liberties, which they haue destroyed, and the greatest of all, our Religion, and the consciences which wee haue towards Almighty God, of the which they would for euer deface the memory, whosoeuer will impute it a crime vnto vs to

seeke all possible meanes to preserue the possession of things which are so deare and precious, is bereft of all naturall sense, neither hath hee any more part of man left him but his face, and doth declare himselfe enemy to all Religion and conscience.

But forasmuch as the ministers of the State haue thought good, that the Ambassadors of the King of Great Brittain, by a most authentick Act signed and sealed in due forme, making themselves, in the name of their Master, Mediators of the conclusion of the treaty, and obliged his authority and his word to make vs inioy the effect of all those things which were promised, and that the Act it selfe was consigned vnto vs, I cannot perswade my selfe that they can be so farre unreasonable or passionate, after their consenting to so solemne a caution as to thinke it strange that wee should haue our recourse to the caution, and to the pledge which they themselves haue chosen and approved of, and that we intreat him to imploy himselfe towards the principall party to binde himselfe by the accustomed wayes betweene men of this condicion to performe his Royall word, to discharge him of his caution, by the sincere and exact maintaining and obseruation of all the things which were agreed vpon, and without the confession, whereof the difference should still remaine, and the things should be in as deplorable termes as they were before.

Concerning these among vs which would disapproue this proceeding. I say that they cannot with a good conscience, except therewithall they defame with odious and execrable titles the generous resistance of those which haue gone before vs, and who with their bloods haue atchieued vs this holy and safe liberty for the preservation whereof we doe together at this time contest by the same proceedings: which haue passed the

the Sea to seeke the succours which we haue obtained, and which went into the heart of Germanie, to raise multitudes of people, and to bring them into this Kingdome, and by force to binde their enemies to giue them peace and the liberty which was denied them, and to performe the promise, which they had broken: And yet notwithstanding by the Edicts of our Kings they are stiled faithfull and obedient Subiects and Seruants, and the memory of them shall euer be blessed in the midst of the Church. And besides in that which concerneth me, it seemeth vnto me that all kind of right and reason doth authorise me in this pursuit, for hitherto in all our warres of Religion, I haue had in these parts the charge of chiefe & Generall of all those which in these Prouinces haue had their armes in their hands, for their iust and necessary defence. The first peace hath bene fully treated with me, according to the power which was giuen me by the generall assembly: And in the second my brother and my selfe alone haue sustained the charge of the warre, and I haue been present as Generall for the defence of our Churches, and in the treaty and conclusion of peace, that cautionarie Act of the Ambassadors of strangers was deliuered vnto me. And the oathes which I haue taken in all our assemblies doe bind mee neuer to abandon this cause, and to imploy all the power, vnderstanding, and meanes which God hath giuen me for the preteruation and subsistence of our Churches both in generall and in particular, and to imploy therein whatsoever is most deare vnto me. In such sort that I should now hold my selfe periured, and a forsaker of this so holy and so iust a Cause, if I should not by all my trauailes and meanes procure the deliuerance of so many poore persecuted Churches, the ordinary complaints and sighes whereof doe interrupt my sleepe, waken

my conscience, and binde me by so necessary a duty to all that I am able to doe for the easing of them, I ioyne thereunto the strangers Caution whereof I haue spoken; for in regard that all our Churches haue receiued it with ioy and consolation, and haue blessed God that the peace was concluded in that manner, they did not beleue that it was a piece that should be knowne with wormes and rotten in a coffer. But that it should be dearly kept, as the authentick gage of our safety, and as necessity should binde vs to make it of value and force to our aduantage, and to oppose the force of them which haue taken this Cause in hand, against the violence of those which might hereafter iniustly oppress vs: and tread vnderfoot the promises which were given for our subsistence.

It may seeme to some that I should haue entred into communication with our Churches before I should haue resolved for this negotiation, and to call vpon the King of Great Brittain for his promise: But I doe not thinke that men of good vnderstanding can make so triuolous a scruple. For among the common people euery one knoweth that there was no sufficient resolution for that; I know that all men desired it, but I saw no man that durst attempt it, and I felt my selfe bound in conscience, and authorised by the right aforesaid, and I saw that we could hope for no generall assembly, and that all places among vs were filled with spies hired to discouer all good actions, and to make them vnprofitable, and I considered that to communicate so ticklish a thing to many, would be to expose to the winde, and to lose that hope which was yet left vs for our re-establishment, which is the cause that I chose rather to hazard my selfe alone, then to neglect the interest of our Churches, or to expose any of them to the persecution, wherein such a proceeding being
dit.

discovered, they would infallibly haue beene entangled for euer.

And to shew that in this negotiation I haue had no other proiect then may tend to the good of the Common-wealth, I haue therein employed *Monsieur de S. Blancard*, whose zeale to the Church of God hath beene knowne to all men, whose integrity without reproch was free from all fraud and deceit, and who hath seasoned the courage which hee hath showne in all occasions with a singular prudence, beyond the expectation of his age, in such sort that I hauing made vse of a man that was so entirely for the publike good, and which hath so often exposed his life for the preservation of the liberties which yet remained vnto our Churches, who so honourably ended his life in this quarrell, that the memory of him shall be for euer a good odour, I cannot be suspected to haue done this this negotiation for any particular ambition.

I will not, heere stand to make answere to those which say that what euill soeuer is done vs, wee ought not to repulse it by force, notwithstanding any right or necessity that may seeme to authorise our defence, but onely oppose thereunto a gentle patience, and a firme resolution to martyrdom: But I leaue the decision of this question to diuines and Lawyers, and will onely content my selfe to say that such speeches in the mouthes of our enemies and of some of our owne are suggested by the passion which they haue for our destruction. And it is an effect of the hire which they haue receiued, or are made to hope for, experience hauing taught vs to perceiue in many, that it is the discourse of one that is hired, and a forerunner of a declaration of an Apostacie. For the first, namely our enemies, I finde not that strange, that they endeavour to lulle vs asleepe, that they may binde vs, and put out our eyes,

eyes, and to impose the seruitude vpon vs which they haue proiected with lesse perill. For they are taught by diuers proofes that our resistance making them to partake with vs of the feare and danger, they cannot make an attempt vpon our liues without hazarding of their owne, and it is safer and more easie for them to cut our throats in our beds, or to bring vs out of prison to execution, then to force vs in a breach or in a trench, I only wonder at their impudency, all the world knowing the small account which they make of superiour powers established by God, what leagues they haue made, not onely to preserve their owne Religion and liues, but to constrain the Soueraigne to exterminate the others, not to binde him to peace, but to force him to an vniust and a barbarous warre against his most affectionate subiects, and faithfull seruants; to farre as to dispossesse him of his Throne, and to protest that they cannot subiect themselues to a Prince which professeth a contrary Religion to theirs. For those that are among vs, I suppose that some speake out of weaknes, and out of a desire which they haue to see the ancient zeale kindled among vs, which they suppose will be extinguished by the license of armes: But I doe imagine also that many are led thereunto by fallshood and deceit, being people little disposed to doe what they say, and whom an hundred crownes would make to speake a very different language. As for me hauing receiued the purity of Religion from my fathers, I doe indeauour to imitate their zeale, and to follow their example, which (praised bee Almighty God) hath beene without reproach: I know right well that this point hath beene resolued by excellent Theologians, which bee it, in piety, be in doctrine, those of this age doe not surpasse: And I beleue that when God will deliuer vs by humane meanes, as oft times by
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them he hath restored the exteriour condition of his Church, we should not oppose our selues against this worke; but we ought to labour with the instruments of our deliuerance, and to acknowledge in this, about all the blessings of God powred vpon the Saints, and vpon the generous labours of our ancestours, that by their firme and bold resistance, it hath pleased the Lord to procure libertie, rest, and prosperity to his Church.

Therefore the publike necessity being stronger then our patience which by little and little made it selfe guilty of our destruction, we had our recourse to the King of Great Britaine to obtaine, either by his intercession or by his power that the Edicts made for our subsistence might be obserued, and that the promise which was giuen vs, wherein, his, also was ingaged for our libertie, might not be violated: and that my brother by his presence and his continuall solicitations, had greatly advanced it, Almighty God hath giuen me the grace to bring it to perfection, by the imployment of *Monsieur de S. Blancard*. For the King of Great Britaine moued with a feruent zeale for the defence of the Christian faith, and with an incessant desire to see the Church of God out of oppression throughout all parts of the earth, there being no place, where since the small time that God hath called him to the conduct of his Kingdomes that this affection hath not borne his courage, and imployed his forces, hath embraced this Cause with great vigour, not moued thereunto out of any ambitious desire to intrude vpon others, but onely out of the compassion, which hee hath of our miseries, and the displeasure to see his interuention with so great indignity concerned, so farre forth as that they will make it serue for the oppression of those whom he desired to releue; and thereby to adde vnto his Crowne that rich flowre of honour, to bee the deliuerer of the

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ches of this Kingdome, which by their faith and constancie euen in the persecutions haue made themselves to be celebrate throughout the world.

Moreouer, hee hath let vs know that to bee his onely designe, to the which hee protesteth to betake himselfe with so great firmnesse, as it hath beene religiously confirmed vnto me by men of quality, which hee hath done mee the honour to send vnto mee, that hee would neuer let goe his hold vntill such time as that it should plainly appeare vnto him, that by an intire assurance he hath atchieued vs a firme repose, and a solid contentment: requiring of vs nothing else but that which the Churches which are in the estate of resistance, I should doe my duety, not onely to approue the request which the said *Seigneur de S. Blancard* had made vnto him in my behalfe, in the name of our Churches; but also to ioyne our selues vnto his armes, and not to deport our selues from the generall end, for the respect of any particular accommodation, and ioyntly with him to obtaine a good, firme, and assured peace, which shall restore vnto all our Churches, at the least part of the prosperity from the which they are fallen.

And this is the cause wherefore in the name of God I doe summon those which haue any remainder of ancient zeale in their hearts, and which hitherto haue sighed, in attending who should come from any part for the deliuerance of the Church of God, and which haue alwayes protested, that when they should see any assured grounds of resistance or of subsistence, they would make it appeare that they had no lesse affection then the rest for the consolation of so many poore persecuted flocks, nor show no lesse resolution to sacrifice all they haue to so holy and so glorious an enterpryse.

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Therefore the Cause now in hand cannot be said to be vniust; for there was neuer any more needfull: nor the resolution to enter thereinto rash, hauing for our protector a Prince so religious, so faithfull, so neare a neighbour, and so powerfull: neither is the designe impatient, in regard that for the space of a whole yeare, wee haue to small purpose expected to see the persecution to cease, and the promised things to be obserued: nor the execution of this designe criminall, forasmuch as wee haue no other end but the restitution of the Churches by the means heretofore vsed by our Fathers, fauoured of God, and authorised by naturall and politicke right.

As for mee, I should for euer feele my conscience charged before God, and mine honour defaced among men, if hauing seene so many oppressions vpon the Church, for the which the Sonne of God hath shed his blood and indured death; I should not seeke with all my power and meanes to ease it, and seeing so great a day of deliuerance to offer it selfe vnto mee, if I should not follow and embrace so opportune a fauour, which wee may iustly say to be sent vs from aboue; and if I had either through consideration or through delayes of slothfulnesse diuered so great a blessing, and refused an occasion so aduantageous to draw vs from the shame and miserie wherein wee are: confessing freely that I can no longer liue among so many publike calamities no more then I can suruiue after the full dissipation of the Church, wherewith wee see our selues so nearely threatned: also I beleeue that all those which hitherto God hath preserved by so many of his powerfull maruailes, will not bee slacke to so laudable a worke, and I haue too good an opinion of the courage and zeale of euery one, to thinke that they would withdraw them.

themselves through impiety, or to destroy it theough
perfidiousnelle.

And I assure my selfe, that time shall make all
men to see, that I haue not beene moued to this
enterprise out of any desire to make my selfe great, or
to make any profit of the publike ruine: For at the
same time I see my selfe engaged to trauailes, distur-
bations, and continuall watchings, to bee incessantly
stirred with grieues, and exposed to manifest dan-
gers, my familie is constrained to seeke by a vo-
luntarie banishment among strangers, the repose
which it cannot finde with me: and as my expen-
ces increase, my reuenues doe diminish. But my
conscience doth so presse mee in this Cause, that al-
though I should bee abandoned of all and left alone
(which I thinke will neuer be) I am resolued to pur-
sue it vnill the last drop of my blood, and to the
last breath of my life: and though I should goe begge
my bread among strangenations, God will giue mee
the grace to iustifie vnto the world, that I neuer had
other intent then to sacrifice mine estate, my rest, and
my life, and to lay downe all my particular interests,
for the deliuerance of the Church, without hauing
any thought which shall tend to the reuolting from
the obedience and fidelity whereunto nature and con-
science doth binde mee to the King my Soueraigne
Lord.

And in this case, (if that were all) I doe offer,
that if the Church might bee re-established in her
first prosperity, voluntarily to exile my selfe from
this Kingdome, and to passe the rest of my life a-
mong strangers as a priuate man, and to renounce
all honour and worldly aduantage, and to de-
prive my selfe of the good and repose which I
should procure for others, to meditate by my selfe,
and

and to celebrate with continuall praises the fauour
which God should shew mee, to see yet once a-
gaine his poore people out of anguish and bon-
dage, and to haue gotten so great honour,
to haue made my selfe the in-
strument of their de-
liuerance.

FINIS.

Sept: 12. 94

